

Making the usual allowance for the inaccuracy of difficult experiments, there seems a probability of some relation not yet fully developed between the mechanical condensibility of the gases and their absorption by charcoal and other porous bodies, and between the latter property and the transmissibility through membranes.

Want of space, together with the large allotment already made for this subject in the present number, precludes further notice of the highly interesting little volume before us. It is worthy of the careful perusal of every physician who desires to look beyond the mere routine of our yet too empirical profession.

Last of the practical arts to adopt the Baconian system of improvement, its progress seems at length to yield promise of a brighter era, when founded firmly on the principles of nature and truth, and constituted of materials, drawn from the quarries of experiment and observation, rendered brighter by arrangement, and stronger by combination, the science of medicine will place the physician on that proud summit from which the astronomer and mechanician look down on the feeble systems of former times. It is only thus, by divesting medicine of its empiricism, its mystery, and its hypotheses, that we shall be entitled to claim for our art, its proper rank among sciences, and demand for the educated physician, that respect which he now is doomed to share with nurses and charlatans.

J. K. M.

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XVI. *Encyclopädisches Wörterbuch der medicinischen Wissenschaften*. Herausgegeben von den Professoren der medicinischen Facultät zu Berlin. C. F. v. GRAEFE, C. W. HUFELAND, H. F. LINK, K. A. RUDOLPHI. Dritter Band. (Antiphathie—Attractio.) Berlin, 1829, und Vierter Band, (Attrahentia—Band,) 1830.

The first and second volumes of this work have been already noticed in preceding numbers of our Journal, on which occasions we expressed our opinion in favourable terms of their contents. Since then, we have received the third and fourth volumes, as announced above, which we shall now proceed to notice. The several anatomical articles contained in the part of the work before us, are written, for the most part, by Professor Schlemm, a very able anatomist of Berlin. We have to regret, however, that the extreme brevity of most of them is calculated to detract from their utility; a fault, indeed, which applies in a less degree to those on the eye, (Augapfel,) but which, even in these, has been unfortunately carried to too great an extent. While upon this subject, we will observe, that the author has demonstrated, contrary to the general opinion, that the cornea is well supplied with nerves.

"They have their origin from the ciliary nerves, which, behind the ciliary ligament, (ligamentum ciliare,) divide into two orders of filaments, the one superficial, the other deep-seated. The latter, larger and more numerous than the others, are distributed to the iris, (der Blendung;) the superficial, on the other hand, penetrate the sclerotica, on a level with the ciliary ligament, from whence they extend forward to enter the groove of the edge of the cornea which is united with the corresponding border of the sclerotica, and traverse the posterior part of the cornea until they become lost, by their extreme tenuity upon that membrane."

The portion of the work which is taken up with the consideration of diseases of the eye, and the operations proper for their removal, is highly interesting, and the different articles upon those subjects are drawn up with much ability. They are written by some of the most distinguished ophthalmologists of Germany, amongst whom we find the names of Ammon, Benedict, Jäger, of Vienna, Hedemis, Michaelis, Radius, Seifert, &c. The Germans have long taken the lead in this department of surgery, and we can confidently recommend our readers to the several articles contained in these volumes, as a source from which they may derive much useful information, not easily to be obtained elsewhere. The several articles on the most important surgical subjects which are discussed, present much interest, and most of them are written by men of extensive reputation. The same is true of those which embrace the special consideration of the different diseases which fall within the compass of the two volumes. Amongst these, it will be sufficient to designate the articles aphthæ, by Hohnbaum and Heyfelder, aphonia and arthritis, by Sachse, ascites, by Horn, apoplexy and asthma, by Kreysig, and atrophia, by Vogel. The botanical articles are, for the most part, by Professor Link, of Berlin, and are highly creditable to the distinguished author; as are also the several articles on baths and mineral waters, by Professor Osann, as well as his observations on the different articles of the *materia medica*.

Amongst other subjects contained in the volumes before us, we must not omit to mention the several articles by Professor Hecker, on ancient Greek medical literature. They bear the characteristic marks of the author's known erudition, and furnish an excellent summary of the leading tenets of the *olden time*. In conclusion, it affords us much pleasure to observe, that the favourable notice of the work in question, which we formerly bestowed upon the preceding volumes, has been fully justified by the ability manifested by the editors in the third and fourth volumes. From the known acquirements of the several writers employed in the important undertaking, we feel assured that the succeeding part of the work will be conducted in the same creditable manner as that which is already before the public.

E. G.

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- XVII. *Handbuch der speciellen, medicinischen Pathologie und Therapie, für akademische Vorlesungen bearbeitet.* Von JOHANN NEP. EDLEN VON RAIMANN, der Heilkunde Doctor. k. k. Med. ersterer Regierungsrathe. Professor der speciellen Therapie, und Medicinischen Klinik, &c. &c. 2 Bände. Wien. 1826.
- Manual of Special Medical Pathology and Therapeutics.* By J. N. VON RAIMANN, M. D. &c. Third edit. enlarged and improved. 2 vols. Vienna, 1826.

Turning our attention to the clinical school of Vienna, we find, that it has for a long series of years, presented an honourable succession of individuals, as its Professors, whose names are closely identified with medical improvement, and are at the same time, known and respected, wherever the healing art is cultivated as a science. Commencing with the celebrated De Haen, we find the clinical chair filled, successively, by a Stoll, a Frank, a Hildenbrand, and at present, a Raimann; all of whom have done honour to the important trust confided to them, and rendered the advantages of their situation contributive to improvement. In proof of this, it will only be necessary to observe, that this